



- The Sami languages are a group of Uralic languages spoken by the indigenous people of the same name in parts of northern Finland, Norway, Sweden and extreme north-western Russia.
- Sami languages have some official status in Finland, Norway, and Sweden , though not in Russia.



- The following clock times are written in Sami:
 - 3.40 *diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje*
 - 4.50 *diibmu lea logi váile vihtta*
 - 1.10 *diibmu lea logi badjel okta*
 - 9.25 *diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi*
 - 7.05 *diibmu lea vihtta badjel čieža*
 - 12.30 *diibmu lea beal okta*
- How do you say in Sami (a) 3.55 (b) 4.20 (c) 6.35 (d) 10.10 ?



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The time
is

Write down everything
you know about Sami
systematically.

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- How do you say in Sami (a) 3.55 (b) 4.20 (c) 6.35 (d) 10.10 ?

In what way
could the same
word “okta”
appear in both
1.10 and 12:30?



- So the same number word can appear in both ‘ten past one’ and ‘half past twelve’
- It appears that in Sami instead of half **past** the last hour **they count half to the next hour** (something you may be familiar with if you know German or remember ‘Telling the time in Tallinn’ a few years ago!).
- So let’s assume **okta** is ‘one’, which means *logi badjel* is ‘ten past/after’ and *beal* is ‘half-before’.
- 1.10 *diibmu lea logi badjel okta* the time is **ten past/after one**
- 12:30 *diibmu lea beal okta* the time is **half-before one**



3.40	<i>diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje</i>	the time is ten after half-before <i>njeallje</i>
4.50	<i>diibmu lea logi váile vihtta</i>	the time is <i>logi váile vihtta</i>
1.10	<i>diibmu lea logi badjel okta</i>	the time is ten after one
9.25	<i>diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi</i>	the time is <i>vihtta váile</i> half-before <i>logi</i>
7.05	<i>diibmu lea vihtta badjel čieža</i>	the time is <i>vihtta badjel čieža</i>
12.30	<i>diibmu lea beal ok</i>	the time is half-before one



3.40	<i>diibmu lea logi badjel beal njeallje</i>	the time is ten after half-before <i>njeallje</i>
4.50	<i>diibmu lea logi váile vihtta</i>	the time is <i>logi váile vihtta</i>
1.10	<i>diibmu lea logi badjel okta</i>	the time is ten after one
9.25	<i>diibmu lea vihtta váile beal logi</i>	the time is <i>vihtta váile half-before</i> <i>logi</i>
7.05	<i>diibmu lea vihtta badjel čieža</i>	the time is <i>vihtta badjel čieža</i>
12.30	<i>diibmu lea beal ok</i>	the time is half-before one



- *Logi badjel* is ‘ten after’, and looking at 9.25 it seems that *logi* is a number, presumably ‘ten’, and *badjel* ‘after’. So now we have:
 - 3.40 the time is ten after half-before *njeallje*
 - 4.50 the time is ten *váile vihtta*
 - 1.10 the time is ten after one
 - 9.25 the time is *vihtta váile* half-before ten
 - 7.05 the time is *vihtta* after *čieža*
 - 12.30 the time is half-before one



- 3.40 is ten minutes after 3.30, which would be ‘half-before four’ counting forwards, so *njeallje* must be ‘four’. The word *vihtta* appears three times, in ‘ten to five’, 9.25 and 7.05, so looks a good candidate for ‘five’.
- 3.40 the time is ten after half-before four
- 4.50 the time is ten *váile* five
- 1.10 the time is ten after one
- 9.25 the time is five *váile* half-before ten
- 7.05 the time is five after *čieža*
- 12.30 the time is half-before one



- It should be now clear that *váile* is ‘to’ or ‘before’, and *čieža* is ‘seven’:
- 3.40 the time is ten past half-before four
- 4.50 the time is ten to five
- 1.10 the time is ten past one
- 9.25 the time is five to half-before ten
- 7.05 the time is five past seven
- 12.30 the time is half-before one



- *Diebmu lea* = ‘The time is’
- Numbers
 - 1 *okta*
 - 4 *njeallje*
 - 5 *vihtta*
 - 7 *čieža*
 - 10 *logi*
- *badjel* = ‘past’
- *váile* = ‘to’
- *beal* = ‘half-before’



- 3.55 five to four *diibmu lea vihtta váile njeallje*
- 4.20 we don't know how to say 20, so we have to compose something based on what we do know: 4.20 is ten minutes before 4.30, i.e. ten to half-before five
diibmu lea logi váile beal vihtta
- 6.35 based on 9.25, this is probably five past half-before seven
diibmu lea vihtta badjel beal čieža
- 10.10 ten past ten *diibmu lea logi badjel logi*



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